(e) the steps taken by Government to check such rising accidents of aircraft due to bird hits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There has been a marginal increase in bird hit incidents. While there have been 251 cases of bird hits reported in 2008 as against 217 in 2007, in Delhi, the number of bird hits incidents reported this year is 39 as against 30 in 2007.

(c) and (d) The sources of bird attraction are major construction activities in and around aerodrome, grass inside the airport, slum clusters, garbage dump and illegal abattoirs in the vicinity of the airport, slaughter houses, garbage dumping in the uncovered bins, poor garbage disposal and non-timely removal, unauthorized piggeries, dairy farms and slums, water stagnation, landfill area etc.

(e) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airports where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Discontinuation of international flights from Guwahati

2333. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuation of the international flights to and from Guwahati;

(b) whether his Ministry has made proper assessment about the deficiency in infrastructure, visa facilities and policy guidelines deterring the airlines to fly to and from Guwahati;

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof and the action taken by Government to remove such deficiencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, Guwahati is available as point of call to the designated airlines of 10 foreign countries. However, actual operations by any airline is always guided by its commercial judgement. Air India had commenced operations on Guwahati-Gangtok route which was later discontinued due to poor load factor.

(b) Taking into consideration, the present traffic at Guwahati airports, the existing infrastructure provided in terminal building can handle both international as well as domestic operations.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Contractual workers engaged by Air India

2334. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the provision of Contract labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 wherein following conditions are laid down—"if workers employed on contract are doing the same kind of work as workers otherwise employed by the employer directly, then the wages, holidays, working hours and other conditions of work of the contract labour will be same as workers employed otherwise"; and

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that as far as the contractual labour which is engaged by Air India and other Private Airlines all over Gujarat, the above conditions are not fulfilled and the Airlines are violating the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. No case of violation under the Act has been brought to notice of the Government.

Safety of CSIA, Mumbai

2335. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) Mumbai is facing imminent danger of sinking as reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the water mains which are very old and are running below the runway can burst one day and pose danger to the aircraft; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that runway is not damaged due to burst of water mains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport is not facing any danger of sinking.

(c) and (d) Three watermains, which supply water to the city of Mumbai, pass much below the two runways of the Airport. The watermains are at a variable depth below the two runways and to date have not been an issue at the airport. Non-destructive testings of the runways to identify weak soil areas and weak pavement areas have been conducted by Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL) and no issues have been detected in the pipeline alignments.

Flight of foreign registered aircrafts in Indian sky

2336. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many foreign registered aircrafts are making unrestricted flights in Indian air space without the knowledge of the country's security establishment;